

# Defining and Assessing Learning: Exploring Competency-Based Initiatives (2002)

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- *Do you want to establish a competency-based program at your institution?*
- *How do you measure the success of a college education?*

## About This Report

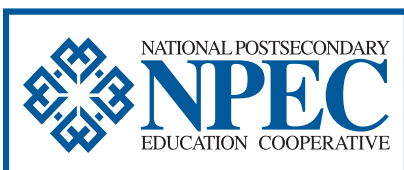
Legislators, employers, accrediting agencies, and others are often more interested in what skills and abilities students have, than in the number of credit hours the students have accumulated. NPEC's new report *Defining and Assessing Learning: Exploring Competency-Based Initiatives* is a hands-on resource that introduces basic information about the construction and use of competency assessments and includes the results of eight case studies of competency-based programs. A set of operating principles to guide best practices in this field is gleaned from these case studies. The publication also relays important information about the theory of competency-based education and addresses issues involved in compiling, analyzing, maintaining, and reporting data about students' competencies.

## Who Can Use This Report

Administrators and faculty who assess student learning outcomes and institutional leaders who want to reform curricula and attract new students by initiating a competency-based program can use *Defining and Assessing Learning: Exploring Competency-Based Initiatives* to gather ideas for implementing such a program and evaluating and reporting students' competencies. Personnel who develop education and/or training programs for business can also find examples of how competency-based education and/or programs address employer needs with quality and rigor.

## How To Obtain This Report

This publication can be downloaded from the NCES Electronic Catalog at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002159>. To obtain a hard copy of this publication, call 1-877-4-ED-PUBS (1-877-433-7827), write ED Pubs, U.S. Department of Education, P.O. Box 1398, Jessup, MD 20794-1398, or visit (<http://www.edpubs.org>) for online ordering.



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